GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6111
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2003
OILSEED PRODUCTION
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have released any funds to NAFED and other agencies to increase the oilseeds production;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the gap between oilseed supply and demand in the market;

(d) whether the farmers are switching over to other cash crops; and

(e) if so, the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b): NAFED is a central nodal agency for carrying out purchase operations onMinimum Support Price (MSP) in respect of oilseeds only and not involved in the implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) to increase the production of oilseeds in the country. However, the other central agencies which are involved in the implementation of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) to increase the production of oilseeds have been given the financial assistance during the last 3 years as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	I.C.A.R.	NSC/SFCI/KRIBHCO
2000-01	2.66	10.37
2001-02	2.65	14.95
2002-03	3.25	19.45

(c): In order to increase the production of oilseeds in the country and to reduce the gap between oilseeds supply and demand, a Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme(OPP) is under implementation in 28 States covering 408 selected districts. Under the programme financial assistance is provided to the farmers for production and distribution of seeds, distribution of minikits, rhyzobium culture/PSB, gypsum/pyrite, improved farmimplements, sprinkler sets etc. Besides this for transfer of improved production technology, frontline demonstrations by ICAR and block demonstrations by State Department of Agriculture are organized.

(d): There is no report that the farmers are switching over to other cash crops from oilseeds. However, the area under oilseeds has been affected due to severe drought conditions prevailing in the major oilseed producing states during the last 3 years.

(e): In order to encourage the farmers to go in for cultivation of oilseeds on a large scale incentives are being provided under the scheme of Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) ondifferent components. Besides, this in order to give the remunerative prices to the oilseed growers, the Government has been announcing Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for majoroilseeds and NAFED is the central nodal agency to carry out purchase operations on Minimum Support Price (MSP) in case the market price falls below the MSP.